

\$13, B11

Testimony before the Honolulu City Council on Bill 11 CD1, Relating to Public Parks

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Dear Council members,

CITY CLERK

HONOLULU, HAWAII

Thank you for allowing me to testify on Bill 11. I would like to request the bill be deferred to a later date. I heard that Councilman Anderson is considering holding a community meeting to see what compromises can be worked out and it would be good if some changes could be made to the bill. I feel it would be good if you could give the community more time and listen to changes recommended.

There are many things to consider and this bill is for two parks, Kalama and Kailua which are quite different and can't just be taken as one. Kalama is a very small park with very limited parking space and should not even be considered a place where business can go and tourists can be dropped off. It is my understanding this bill is proposing two permits for each park. I don't understand why or how two permits would be allowed there where there is not even room for the locals.

I would like to see what the change of Bill 5 will make on the Kailua Beach park and that means time has to pass so we can experience the difference and see for ourselves what the banning on Sunday of commercial activities will actually do to the park. What will it do for us? What effect will it have on all concerned? Will the commercial activity actually decrease? Will the traffic be much different?

We cannot forget that we are speaking about one road in and out of the beach park area. We definitely need to take a stance on limiting the activity that goes through there but we need to do it in a way that helps our community and doesn't hinder our economy.

I personally like to see the tourists' faces when they are dropped off at Kailua Beach Park. They seem to appreciate it so much. They remind me of little children when they are exposed to some new adventure. Why would we want to ban them from our beaches? Is sharing with them not part of the aloha spirit? However, I think banning them for a day or several days would not be harmful if it is done in the right way. For example if we were to tell them that the beaches are too crowded already by the local population so we are giving the locals their space on the weekends and they are giving you their space on the weekdays so you also don't have to experience overcrowded beaches, they would appreciate it. Then they would feel even more welcome.

If we were to ban vendors that are trying to target the tourists and the tourists want to be targeted by them we should work on different arrangements that could possibly work where maybe a certain area of the park on the days the tourists come are made available to them. If we took turns then the lack of public access to the beach, excess traffic, parking, water safety, waste disposal issues would be resolved.

This bill seems to be too rigid on some parts and not addressing others while ^{at the same time} it think it is very important. I have heard the commercial activities going on at Kailua Beach park are already illegal. If this is true then this bill should address the need for the illegal activity that is already going on to be monitored and stopped, otherwise it will just be another bill that will not be followed or monitored.

I think we need to sit down and figure out the best ways to use our beaches in the service of our community and our guests without forgetting our spirit of aloha towards them and each other. So

please defer the vote

Lydia Gleason, Waianae, HI

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COUNCIL